

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: June 20, 2007
POSITION: Oppose

BILL NUMBER: SB 312
AUTHOR: C. Kehoe

BILL SUMMARY: Public Utilities: Commission: Access to Filings

This bill would require the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to make accessible on its Internet website as of December 31, 2009, all documents, testimony, or other materials filed with the PUC in any rate-setting or quasi-legislative proceeding. Materials that would not otherwise be made publicly available would be exempt from this requirement.

FISCAL SUMMARY

The fiscal impact to the PUC of complying with this bill is estimated to be \$293,000 PUC Utilities Reimbursement Account, with ongoing costs of about \$97,500 a year. The PUC anticipates they would need one Staff Information Systems Analyst to comply with the bill.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Amendments to this bill since our analysis of the March 29, 2007 version are minor and do not alter our position. The bill has been amended to clarify that documents that would not otherwise be made publicly available would not be made accessible on the PUC's Internet website.

COMMENTS

Finance opposes this bill because it would result in additional costs to the PUC Utilities Reimbursement Account, which would create pressure to increase fees on utility ratepayers.

The majority of the costs created by this bill would be one-time costs associated with hardware and software to support the expanded publication of documents on the PUC's website (\$195,500). There would be an annual Oracle license required of \$3,300 per year. The personnel costs would be \$94,159 per year.

The PUC is currently working towards online access to services and documents. AB 1182 (Chapter 372, 2005) requires the PUC to examine the feasibility of receiving Advice Letters electronically and reduce paper documents received. The Statewide Information Technology Plan's goal 1 compels state agencies to make services more accessible to citizens and state clients, and to improve customer service through technology solutions. The Plan identifies as a priority the "further development of Internet and technology-based channels for delivery of state information and services for the convenience of the public. This bill responds to the Plan's policy priority and, were it not for the costs created, Finance would likely not oppose the bill.

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Analyst/Principal (0621) T. Tatosian	Date	Program Budget Manager Karen Finn	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

BILL ANALYSIS	Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)
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BILL NUMBER

SB 312

	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							
Code/Department	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
Agency or Revenue	CO	PROP							Fund
Type	RV	98	FC	2007-2008	FC	2008-2009	FC	2009-2010	Code
8660/PUC	SO	No	C	\$293	C	\$100	C	\$100	0462
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>								
0462	Publ Utilities Comm Utilities Reimb Acct								